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T. WALLACE
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INVENTOR(S)		
Given Name (first and middle [if any])	Family Name or Surname	Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country)
Prasad Koteswara Xinglong Eric M. Joel	Kapa Jiang Loeser Slade	Parsippany, New Jersey Hillsborough, New Jersey Lake Hiawatha, New Jersey Flanders, New Jersey
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CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS Direct all correspondence to the address associated with Customer No 001095, which is currently: Thomas Hoxie Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation Patent and Trademark Dept 564 Morris Avenue Summit, NJ 07901-1027		
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Respectfully submitted,



Thomas R. Savitsky
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 31,661
Tel No (908) 522-6765

Date: September 19, 2002

INVENTOR INFORMATION

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Inventor One Given Name:: Prasad Koteswara
Family Name:: Kapa
Postal Address Line One:: 4 Faber Road
City:: Parsippany
State or Province:: New Jersey
Country:: US
Postal or Zip Code:: 07054
City of Residence:: Parsippany
State or Province of Residence:: New Jersey
Country of Residence:: US
Citizenship Country:: US
Inventor Two Given Name:: Xingling
Family Name:: Jiang
Postal Address Line One:: 433 Conover Drive
City:: Hillsborough
State or Province:: New Jersey
Country:: US
Postal or Zip Code:: 08844
City of Residence:: Hillsborough
State or Province of Residence:: New Jersey
Country of Residence:: US
Citizenship Country:: P.R. China
Inventor Three Given Name:: Eric M
Family Name:: Loeser
Postal Address Line One:: 92A Van Wyk Road
City:: Lake Hiawatha
State or Province:: New Jersey
Country:: US
Postal or Zip Code:: 07034
City of Residence:: Lake Hiawatha
State or Province of Residence:: New Jersey
Country of Residence:: US
Citizenship Country:: US
Inventor Four Given Name:: Joel
Family Name:: Slade
Postal Address Line One:: 14 Theresa Drive
City:: Flanders
State or Province:: New Jersey
Country:: US
Postal or Zip Code:: 07836
City of Residence:: Flanders
State or Province of Residence:: New Jersey
Country of Residence:: US
Citizenship Country:: US

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PROCESS FOR PREPARING INTERMEDIATES

Field of Invention

This invention is directed to a process for preparing intermediates that are useful to prepare certain antibacterial *N*-formyl hydroxylamine compounds.

Background of the Invention

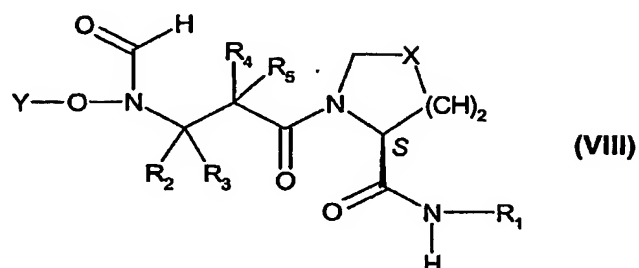
Peptide deformylase is a metallopeptidase found in prokaryotic organisms such as bacteria. Protein synthesis in prokaryotic organisms begins with *N*-formyl methionine (fMet). After initiation of protein synthesis, the formyl group is removed by the enzyme peptide deformylase (PDF); this activity is essential for maturation of proteins. It has been shown that PDF is required for bacterial growth (see Chang et al., J. Bacteriol., Vol. 171, pp. 4071-4072 (1989); Meinnel et al., J. Bacteriol., Vol. 176, No. 23, pp. 7387-7390 (1994); Mazel et al., EMBO J., Vol. 13, No. 4, pp. 914-923 (1994)). Since protein synthesis in eukaryotic organisms does not depend on fMet for initiation, agents that will inhibit PDF are attractive candidates for development of new anti-microbial and anti-bacterial drugs.

Co-pending Application Serial No. 10/171,706, filed June 14, 2002 (incorporated herein by reference in its entirety), discloses novel *N*-formyl hydroxylamine compounds that inhibit PDF and are therefore useful as antibacterial agents. The compounds disclosed therein are certain *N*-[1-oxo-2-alkyl-3-(*N*-hydroxyformamido)-propyl]-(carbonylamino-aryl or -heteroaryl)-azacyclo_{4,7}alkanes or thiazacyclo_{4,7}alkanes which are described in more detail hereinafter. An improved process has been discovered for preparing intermediates useful for preparing these *N*-[1-oxo-2-alkyl-3-(*N*-hydroxyformamido)-propyl]-(carbonylamino-aryl or -heteroaryl)-azacyclo_{4,7}alkanes or thiazacyclo_{4,7}alkanes which makes use of a particular β -lactam intermediate.

Summary of the Invention

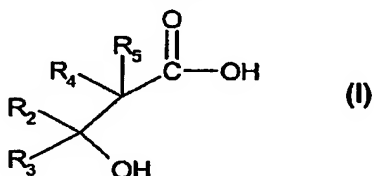
The present invention is directed to a novel process for preparing certain intermediates which are useful to prepare certain *N*-formyl hydroxylamine compounds which are useful for inhibiting bacteria.

More specifically, the present invention is directed to a process for preparing a compound of the formula (VIII)

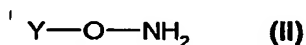


comprising step A:

contacting a compound of the formula (I)

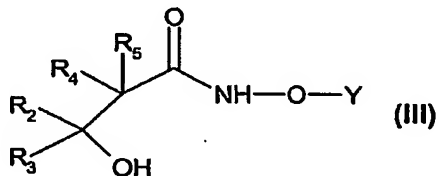


with a compound of the formula (II)



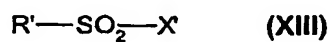
in the presence of a carboxy activating agent, in a suitable solvent

under conditions suitable to form a compound of the formula (III)

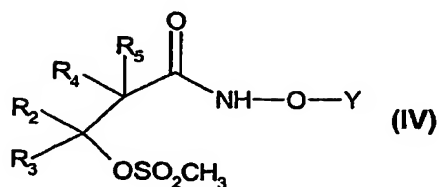


followed by step B:

contacting compound (III) with a compound of the formula (XIII)

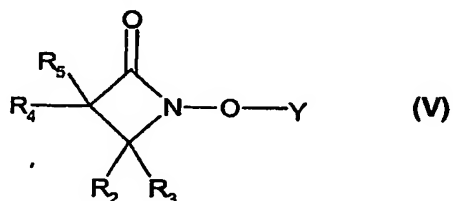


in the presence of a base in a suitable solvent, under conditions suitable to form a compound of the formula (IV)



followed by Step C:

contacting compound (IV) with a base in a suitable solvent under conditions suitable to form a compound of the formula (V)

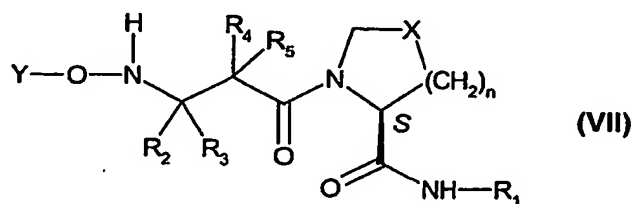


followed by Step D:

contacting compound (V) with a compound of the formula (VI)



in a suitable solvent optionally in the presence of an activator under conditions suitable to form a compound of the formula (VII)



followed by Step E:

contacting compound (VII) with a formylating agent in a suitable solvent under conditions suitable to form compound (VIII);

wherein

Y is a hydroxy protecting group;

Each of R_2 , R_3 , R_4 and R_5 is independently hydrogen or alkyl, or (R_2 and R_3) and/or (R_4 and R_5) collectively form a C_{4-7} cycloalkyl;

X is $-CH_2-$, $-S-$, $-CH(OH)-$, $-CH(OR)-$, $-CH(SH)-$, $-CH(SR)-$, $-CF_2-$, $-C=N(OR)-$ or $-CH(F)-$;

wherein

R is alkyl;

R_1 is aryl or heteroaryl;

X' is halo;

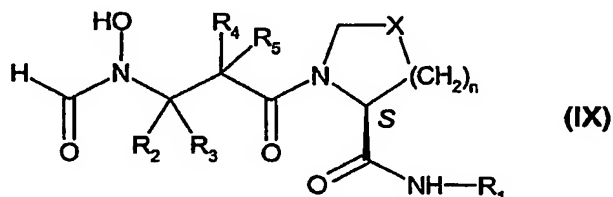
R' is alkyl or aryl; and

n is 0 to 3, provided that when n is 0, X is $-CH_2-$.

In addition to the above process comprising Steps A through E, the present invention is directed to each of the steps individually, and to any two or more sequential steps.

Detailed Description of the Invention

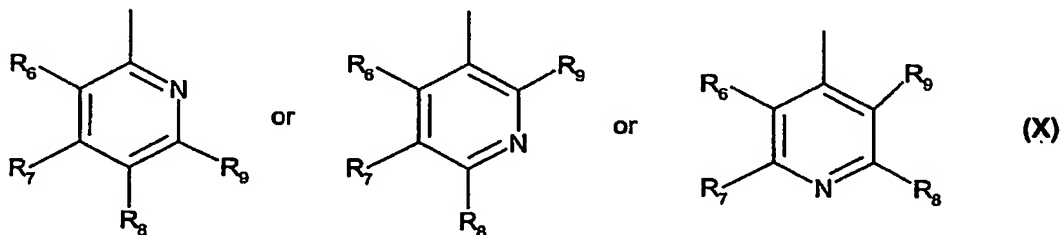
In particular, the present invention provides a process for preparing intermediates useful in the preparation of a *N*-[1-oxo-2-alkyl-3-(*N*-hydroxyformamido)-propyl]-(carbonylamino-aryl or -heteroaryl)-azacyclo₄₋₇alkane or thiazacyclo₄₋₇alkane, e.g., a compound of formula (IX)



wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , X and n are as defined above.

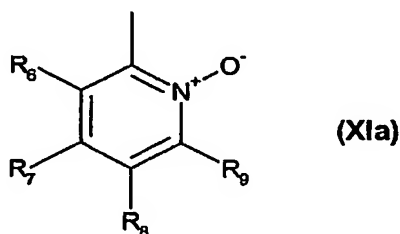
To convert the compound of formula (VIII) to the compound of formula (IX), the hydroxy protecting group is removed using conventional hydrogenolysis techniques known in the art, e.g., by contacting the compound of formula (VII) with a palladium catalyst, such as Pd/BaSO_4 .

The R_1 moiety can be a heteroaryl, for example, an azacyclo_{4,7}alkane, a thiazacyclo_{4,7}alkane or an imidazacyclo_{4,7}alkane. Specific examples of R_1 moieties in the compounds disclosed herein are heteroaryls of formula (X)



wherein each of R_6 , R_7 , R_8 and R_9 , independently, is hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, SCN, halogen, cyano, nitro, thioalkoxy, phenyl, heteroalkylaryl, alkylsulfonyl or formyl.

A preferred R_1 moiety is a heteroaryl of formula (XIa)



wherein R_6 , R_7 , R_8 and R_9 are as defined above for formula (X), e.g.,

wherein

- a) R_6 is nitro, alkyl, substituted alkyl, phenyl, hydroxy, formyl, heteroalkylaryl, alkoxy, acyl or acyloxy; preferably alkyl, especially C_{1-7} alkyl; hydroxyl; or alkoxy, especially a C_{1-7} alkoxy; and
- R_7 , R_8 and R_9 are hydrogen; or

- b) R_6 , R_8 and R_9 are hydrogen; and
 R_7 is alkyl, substituted alkyl, phenyl, halogen, alkoxy or cyano, preferably alkyl, especially C_{1-7} alkyl; substituted alkyl, especially substituted C_{1-7} alkyl, such as $-CF_3$; or alkoxy, especially C_{1-7} alkoxy; or
- c) R_6 , R_7 and R_9 are hydrogen; and
 R_8 is alkyl, substituted alkyl, halogen, nitro, cyano, thioalkoxy, acyloxy, phenyl, alkylsulfonyl or carboxyalkyl, preferably alkyl, especially C_{1-7} alkyl; substituted alkyl, especially $-CF_3$; halogen; or carboxyalkyl; or
- d) R_6 , R_7 and R_8 are hydrogen; and
 R_9 is alkyl, halogen or hydroxy; or
- e) R_7 and R_9 are hydrogen; and
each of R_6 and R_8 , independently, is halogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, phenyl or cyano; or
- f) Each of R_7 and R_9 is alkyl or substituted alkyl; and
 R_6 and R_8 are hydrogen; or
- g) R_6 and R_9 are hydrogen;
 R_7 is alkyl or substituted alkyl; and
 R_8 is nitro; or
- h) R_8 and R_9 are hydrogen;
 R_6 is cyano; and
 R_7 is alkoxy; or
- i) R_7 and R_8 are hydrogen; and
 R_6 is alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy or SCN; and
 R_9 is alkyl or substituted alkyl; or
- j) R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen;
 R_8 is nitro or halogen; and
 R_9 is alkyl or substituted alkyl; or
- k) R_6 , R_7 , R_8 and R_9 are hydrogen; or
- l) R_6 and R_7 together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a phenyl group, preferably substituted with hydroxy; and
 R_8 and R_9 are hydrogen; or

m) R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen; and

R_8 and R_9 together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a phenyl group; or

n) n is 0; or

o) n is 0;

each of R_6 , R_7 , R_8 and R_9 , independently, is hydrogen, alkyl or halogen; and more particularly, R_6 , R_7 , R_8 and R_9 are hydrogen; or

p) n is 0;

R_6 , R_8 and R_9 are hydrogen; and

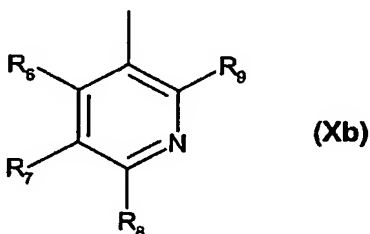
R_7 is alkyl; or

q) n is 0;

R_6 , R_7 and R_9 are hydrogen; and

R_8 is alkyl or halogen.

In another embodiment, R_1 is of formula (Xb)

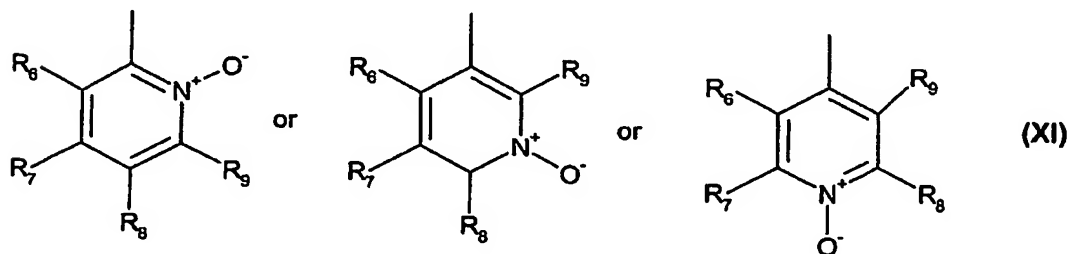


wherein

R_6 , R_7 , R_8 and R_9 are as defined above for formula (X); in particular, R_7 and R_8 together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a phenyl group; and

R_6 and R_9 are hydrogen.

In yet another embodiment, the R_1 is of formula (XI)

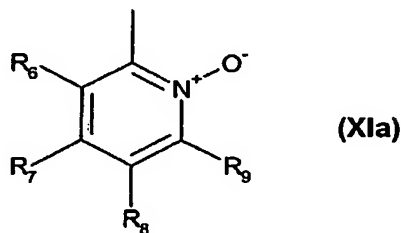


wherein each of R_6 , R_7 , R_8 and R_9 independently is hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, phenyl, halogen, hydroxy or alkoxy, e.g.,

wherein

- a) R_6 and R_8 are hydrogen;
 R_9 is hydrogen or alkyl; and
 R_7 is alkyl, substituted alkyl or phenyl; or
- b) R_6 , R_7 and R_9 are hydrogen; and
 R_8 is halogen, alkyl or substituted alkyl; or
- c) R_7 , R_8 and R_9 are hydrogen; and
 R_6 is hydroxy.

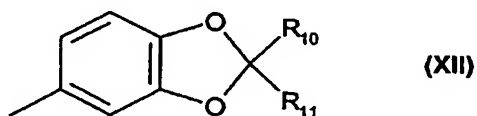
In a particularly useful embodiment the heteroaryl is of the formula (XIa)



wherein R_6 , R_7 , R_8 and R_9 are as defined above for formula (XI).

In another embodiment, R_1 is an unsubstituted phenyl or the phenyl is substituted with alkoxy, e.g., methoxy; or aryloxy, e.g., phenoxy.

In another embodiment, the R_1 is of formula (XII)



wherein each of R_{10} and R_{11} , independently, is hydrogen or halogen. In particular, R_{10} and R_{11} are both either hydrogen or both halogen.

Unless otherwise stated, the following terms as used in the specification have the following meaning.

The term "cycloalkane" or "cycloalkyl" contains from 3- to 7-ring carbon atoms, and is, e.g., cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl.

The term "azacyclo₄₋₇alkane" contains 1-ring heteroatom which is a nitrogen. It contains from 4-7, and especially 4- or 5-ring atoms including the heteroatom.

The term "thiazacyclo₄₋₇alkane" contains 2-ring heteroatoms, nitrogen and sulfur. It contains from 4-7, and especially 5-ring atoms including the heteroatoms.

The term "imidazacyclo₄₋₇alkane" contains 2-ring heteroatoms which are both nitrogen. It contains from 4-7, and especially 5-ring atoms including the heteroatoms.

The term "alkyl" refers to saturated or unsaturated aliphatic groups, such as alkenyl or alkynyl, cycloalkyl or substituted alkyl including straight-chain, branched-chain and cyclic groups having from 1-10 carbons atoms. Preferably "alkyl" or "alk", whenever it occurs, is a saturated aliphatic group or cycloalkyl, more preferably C₁₋₇alkyl, particularly C₁₋₄alkyl. Examples of "alkyl" or "alk" include, but are not limited to, methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, isopropyl, *n*-butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, *t*-butyl, *n*-pentyl, neopentyl, *n*-hexyl or *n*-heptyl, cyclopropyl and especially *n*-butyl.

The term "substituted alkyl" refers to an alkyl group that is substituted with one or more substituents preferably 1-3 substituents including, but not limited to, substituents, such as halogen, lower alkoxy, hydroxy, mercapto, carboxy, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and the like. Examples of substituted alkyl groups include, but are not limited to, -CF₃, -CF₂-CF₃, hydroxymethyl, 1- or 2-hydroxyethyl, methoxymethyl, 1- or 2-ethoxyethyl, carboxymethyl, 1- or 2-carboxyethyl and the like.

The term "aryl" or "Ar" refers to an aromatic carbocyclic group of 6-14 carbon atoms having a single ring including, but not limited to, groups, such as phenyl; or multiple condensed rings including, but not limited to, groups, such as naphthyl or anthryl; and is especially phenyl.

The term "heteroaryl" or "HetAr" refers to a 4- to 7-membered, monocyclic aromatic heterocycle or a bicycle that is composed of a 4- to 7-membered, monocyclic aromatic heterocycle and a fused-on benzene ring. The heteroaryl has at least one hetero atom, preferably one or two heteroatoms including, but not limited to, heteroatoms, such as N, O

and S, within the ring. A preferred heteroaryl group is pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl or benzdioxolanyl.

The aryl or heteroaryl may be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more substituents including, but not limited to, C₁₋₇alkyl, particularly C₁₋₄alkyl, such as methyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, SCN, halogen, cyano, nitro, thioalkoxy, phenyl, heteroalkylaryl, alkylsulfonyl and formyl.

The term "carbonylamine", as used herein, refers to a -NHC(O)- group wherein the amino portion of the group is linked to the aryl/heteroaryl and the carbonyl portion of the group is linked to the azacyclo₄₋₇alkane, thiazacyclo₄₋₇alkane or imidazacyclo₄₋₇alkane.

The term "heteroalkyl" refers to saturated or unsaturated C₁₋₁₀alkyl as defined above, and especially C₁₋₄heteroalkyl which contain one or more heteroatoms, as part of the main, branched or cyclic chains in the group. Heteroatoms may independently be selected from the group consisting of -NR-, where R is hydrogen or alkyl, -S-, -O- and -P-; preferably -NR-, where R is hydrogen or alkyl; and/or -O-. Heteroalkyl groups may be attached to the remainder of the molecule either at a heteroatom (if a valence is available) or at a carbon atom. Examples of heteroalkyl groups include, but are not limited to, groups, such as -O-CH₃, -CH₂-O-CH₃, -CH₂-CH₂-O-CH₃, -S-CH₂-CH₂-CH₃, -CH₂-CH(CH₃)-S-CH₃ and -CH₂-CH₂-NH-CH₂-CH₂-.

The heteroalkyl group may be unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents, preferably 1-3 substituents including, but not limited to, alkyl, halogen, alkoxy, hydroxyl, mercapto, carboxy and especially phenyl. The heteroatom(s) as well as the carbon atoms of the group may be substituted. The heteroatom(s) may also be in oxidized form.

The term "alkoxy", as used herein, refers to a C₁₋₁₀alkyl linked to an oxygen atom, or preferably C₁₋₇alkoxy, more preferably C₁₋₄alkoxy. Examples of alkoxy groups include, but are not limited to, groups such as methoxy, ethoxy, *n*-butoxy, *tert*-butoxy and allyloxy.

The term "acyl", as used herein, refers to the group -(O)CR, where R is alkyl, especially C₁₋₇alkyl, such as methyl. Examples of acyl groups include, but are not limited to, acetyl, propanoyl and butanoyl.

The term "acyloxy", as used herein, refers to the group -OC(O)R , wherein R is hydrogen, alkyl, especially C_{1-7} alkyl, such as methyl or ethyl, or phenyl or substituted alkyl as defined above.

The term "alkoxycarbonyl", as used herein, refers to the group -COOR , wherein R is alkyl, especially C_{1-7} alkyl, such as methyl or ethyl.

The term "halogen" or "halo", as used herein, refers to chlorine, bromine, fluorine, iodine and is especially fluorine.

The term "thioalkoxy", as used herein, means a group -SR , where R is an alkyl as defined above, e.g., methylthio, ethylthio, propylthio, butylthio and the like.

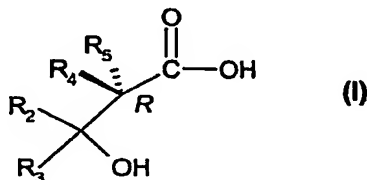
The term "heteroalkylaryl", as used herein, means a heteroalkyl group, e.g., $\text{-O-CH}_2\text{-}$ substituted with an aryl group, especially phenyl. The phenyl group itself may also be substituted with one or more substituents, such as halogen, especially fluoro and chloro; and alkoxy, such as methoxy.

The term "alkylsulfonyl", as used herein, means a group $\text{-SO}_2\text{R}$, wherein R is alkyl, especially C_{1-7} alkyl, such as methyl sulfonyl.

"Protecting group" refers to a chemical group that exhibits the following characteristics: 1) reacts selectively with the desired functionality in good yield to give a protected substrate that is stable to the projected reactions for which protection is desired; 2) is selectively removable from the protected substrate to yield the desired functionality; and 3) is removable in good yield by reagents compatible with the other functional group(s) present or generated in such projected reactions. Examples of suitable protecting groups may be found in Greene et al., "Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis", 3rd Ed., John Wiley & Sons, Inc., NY (1999). Preferred hydroxy protecting groups include benzyl, Fmoc, TBDMS, photolabile protecting groups, such as Nvom, Mom and Mem. Other preferred protecting groups include NPEOC and NPEOM.

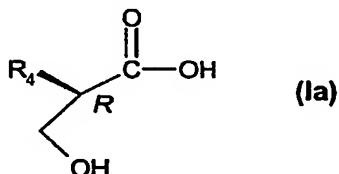
It will be appreciated that the compounds disclosed herein may exist in the form of optical isomers, racemates or diastereoisomers. In particular, in the compounds disclosed herein where R_4 and R_5 are different, the carbon atom to which the R_4 and R_5 groups are bonded is a chiral center and such compounds can exist in the *R*, *S* or racemic forms. It is preferred that the process of the invention prepares the *R* optically pure form. By "optically

pure" is meant that the enantiomeric purity is greater than 50%, preferably greater than 80%, more preferably greater than 90%, and most preferably greater than 95%. The optically pure *R* isomer of compound (I) can be used, in which case all subsequent compounds in the synthesis will remain in the *R* optically pure form, with respect to the same chiral carbon atom. Such *R* form of compound (I) is represented below:

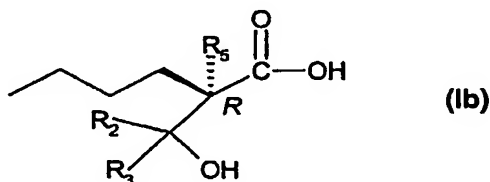


wherein R₂, R₃, R₄ and R₅ are as defined above. The optically pure form of compound (I) is novel provided that when either R₄ or R₅ is hydrogen, the other substituent (i.e., R₄ or R₅) is not hydrogen or methyl. Thus, it is preferred that in the novel compound of formula (I) that R₅ is hydrogen and that R₄ is C₂₋₁₀ alkyl, more preferably C₂₋₇ alkyl, and most preferably C₄ alkyl.

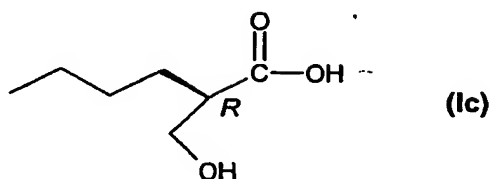
It is further preferred that in the optically pure compound of formula (I) that R₂, R₃, and R₅ are hydrogen and that R₄ is alkyl; such a compound has the structure (Ia):



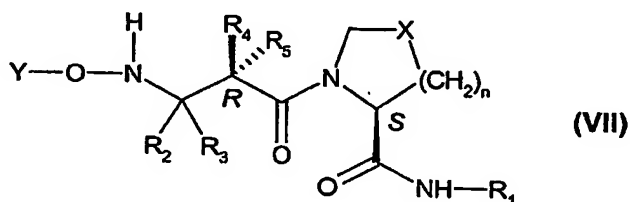
Preferably in compound (I), R₄ is *n*-butyl, where such compound has the structure (Ib)



It is even more preferred that that R_2 , R_3 and R_5 are hydrogen and that R_4 is *n*-butyl; such compound has the structure (Ic):



Alternatively, the racemate form of compound (I) can be used and then the *R* form can be resolved at a later step and the *R* form used for subsequent steps. For example, the compound formed after opening the β -lactam ring, i.e., compound (VII), the product of Step D, can be resolved into its *RS* and *SS* diastereomers and only the *RS* diastereomer used for subsequent steps. The *RS* diastereomer of compound (VII) is depicted below:



wherein R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , Y , X , R_1 and n are as defined above, provided that R_4 and R_5 are different.

The optical isomers are resolved using standard techniques known in the art, for example, using silica gel column chromatography and an ethyl acetate/hexane solvent system (see, e.g., the methods taught in Chapter 4 of "Advanced Organic Chemistry", 4th edition, J. March, John Wiley and Sons, NY (1992)).

In the compounds disclosed herein, the following significances are preferred individually or in any sub-combination:

1. R_1 is a heteroaryl of formula (IIa), wherein R_6 , R_7 and R_9 are hydrogen and R_8 is methyl or trifluoromethyl; or R_6 , R_7 and R_8 are hydrogen and R_9 is fluoro; or R_6 , R_8 and R_9 are hydrogen and R_7 is ethyl or methoxy; or R_7 , R_8 and R_9 are hydrogen and R_6 is hydroxy; or R_7 and R_8 are hydrogen, R_6 is methoxy and R_9 is methyl; or R_1 is a heteroaryl of formula (IIIa), wherein R_6 , R_7 and R_9 are hydrogen and R_8 is fluoro or trifluoromethyl; or R_6 , R_8 and R_9 are hydrogen and R_7 is ethyl; preferably R_1 is a heteroaryl of formula (IIa),

wherein R_6 , R_8 and R_9 are hydrogen and R_7 is ethyl or a heteroaryl of formula (IIIa),
 wherein R_6 , R_7 and R_9 are hydrogen and R_8 is fluoro.

2. X is $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{OH})-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{OR})-$, $-\text{CF}_2-$ or $-\text{CH}(\text{F})-$, preferably X is $-\text{CH}_2-$;
3. R_4 is alkyl, preferably C_{1-7} alkyl, such as *n*-butyl;
4. *n* is 1.

Temperature and pressure are not known to be critical for carrying out any of the steps of the invention, i.e., Steps A through E. Generally, for any of the steps, a temperature of about -10°C to about 150°C , preferably about 0°C to about 80°C , is typically employed. Typically about atmospheric pressure is used for convenience; however, variations to atmospheric pressure are not known to be detrimental. Oxygen is not known to be detrimental to the process, therefore for convenience the various steps can be performed under ambient air, although an inert atmosphere, such as nitrogen or argon, can be used if desired. For convenience equimolar amounts of reactants are typically used; however molar ratios can vary from about 1 to 2 equivalents, relative to the other reactant. The pH for the various steps is typically about 2 to about 12. The solvent used for the various steps are typically organic solvents, although in some situations aqueous/organic solvents can be used. Examples of suitable solvents include dioxane; methylene chloride; dichloromethane; toluene, acetone; methyl ethyl ketone; THF; isopropyl acetate; DMF; alcohols, especially higher branched alcohols, such as *t*-butanol; and the like.

For Step A, a typical temperature is about 0°C to about 50°C , preferably about 5°C to about 35°C ; and a typical reaction time is about 1 hour to about 10 hours, preferably about 2 hours to about 5 hours. A pH of about 2 to about 7, preferably about 3 to about 5, more preferably about 4, is typically employed. The carboxy activating agent can be for example, DCC, CDMT, EDCI and the like. The amount of carboxy activating agent employed is typically about 0.5 to about 2 molar equivalents relative to compound (I). The preferred solvent is THF/water.

For Step B, a typical temperature is about -20°C to about 25°C , preferably about -5°C to about 5°C ; and a typical reaction time is about 1 hour to about 2 hours preferably about 2 hours to about 5 hours. For Step B, an alcoholic solvent should not be used. For reactant (XIII), X' is preferably chloro and R' is preferably lower alkyl or phenyl, with $\text{CH}_3\text{SO}_2\text{Cl}$ and tosyl chloride being most preferred. The pH for Step B is basic and is typically about 9 to about 10. The base used for Step B can be any conventional base

known in the art that will activate the hydroxy group of compound (III), and such base will be used in a hydroxy activating amount which is at least about 1 molar equivalent relative to compound (III). The base can also act as solvent in which case it will be present in a solvating amount which is in excess of the above amount. Examples of bases that can be employed include pyridine, DMAP, a trialkylamine (e.g., trimethylamine), resin-bound bases, Hunig bases, and the like. A preferred solvent is pyridine, THF or EtOAc.

For cyclization Step C, a typical temperature is about 20°C to about 150°C, preferably about 40°C to about 80°C; and a typical reaction time is about 1 hour to about 20 hours, preferably about 2 hours to about 4 hours. The pH for Step C is basic, typically, about 8 to about 12. The base used in Step C can be any base known in the art that is capable of de-protonating the amide group of compound (IV). Examples of suitable bases include inorganic or organic bases, such as potassium carbonate, lithium carbonate, sodium carbonate, lithium bicarbonate, sodium bicarbonate, alkyl lithium (e.g., butyl lithium), and the like. The amount of base employed is a de-protonating amount which is typically in molar excess to the amount of compound (IV), for example about 1 to 5 equivalents relative to compound (IV). A preferred solvent is acetone or methylethylketone.

For Step D, a typical temperature is about 30°C to about 150°C, preferably about 60°C to about 80°C; and a typical reaction time is about 3 hours to about 20 hours, preferably about 5 hours to about 10 hours. The pH for Step D is typically about 5 to about 11. The activator for Step D is a compound which protonates the β -lactam keto oxygen; such activators include, for example, mild (weak) organic acids, such as branched or unbranched carboxylic acids, for example, 2-ethylhexanoic acid, acetic acid, isobutyric acid and the like. If an aqueous alcoholic solvent is used an activator is not needed; preferred aqueous alcoholic solvents include MeOH:H₂O, EtOH:H₂O and the like. If an activator is used a preferred solvent is THF, dioxane or dimethoxyethane. If an activator is used it is used in an protonating amount which is typically about 0.1 molar equivalents to about 2 molar equivalents relative to compound (V).

For Step E, a typical temperature is about -30°C to about 50°C, preferably about 0°C to about 25°C; and a typical reaction time is about 10 minutes to about 5 hours, preferably about 20 minutes to about 1 hour. The pH for Step E is not critical and can vary considerably. For Step E the solvent should not be an alcoholic solvent. The formylating agent can be, for example, HCO₂H/Ac₂O, trifluoroethylformate, and the like, and is present in a formylating amount which is typically about 1 molar equivalent to about 2 molar

equivalents relative to compound (VII). A [preferred solvent is EtOAc, isopropylacetate, *t*-butylacetate or THF.

Insofar as the production of starting materials is not particularly described, the compounds are known or may be prepared analogously to methods known in the art or as disclosed in the examples hereinafter.

The following abbreviations are used:

Ac = acetyl

CDMT = chlorodimethoxy triazine

DIEA = diisopropylethylamine

DCC = dicyclohexylcarbodiimide

DMAP = dimethylaminopyridine

DMF = dimethylformamide

EDCI = 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride

2-EHA = 2-ethylhexanoic acid

EtOAc = ethyl acetate

EtOH = ethanol

Fmoc = 9-fluorenylmethyl-oxycarbonyl

HPLC = high performance liquid chromatography

MeOH = methanol

Mom = methoxy methyl ether

Mem = methoxy ethoxy methyl ether

NPEOC = 4-nitrophenethyloxycarbonyl

NPEOM = 4-nitrophenethyloxy-methyloxycarbonyl

Nvom = nitroveratryl oxymethyl ether

TBDMS = *t*-butyldimethylsilyl,

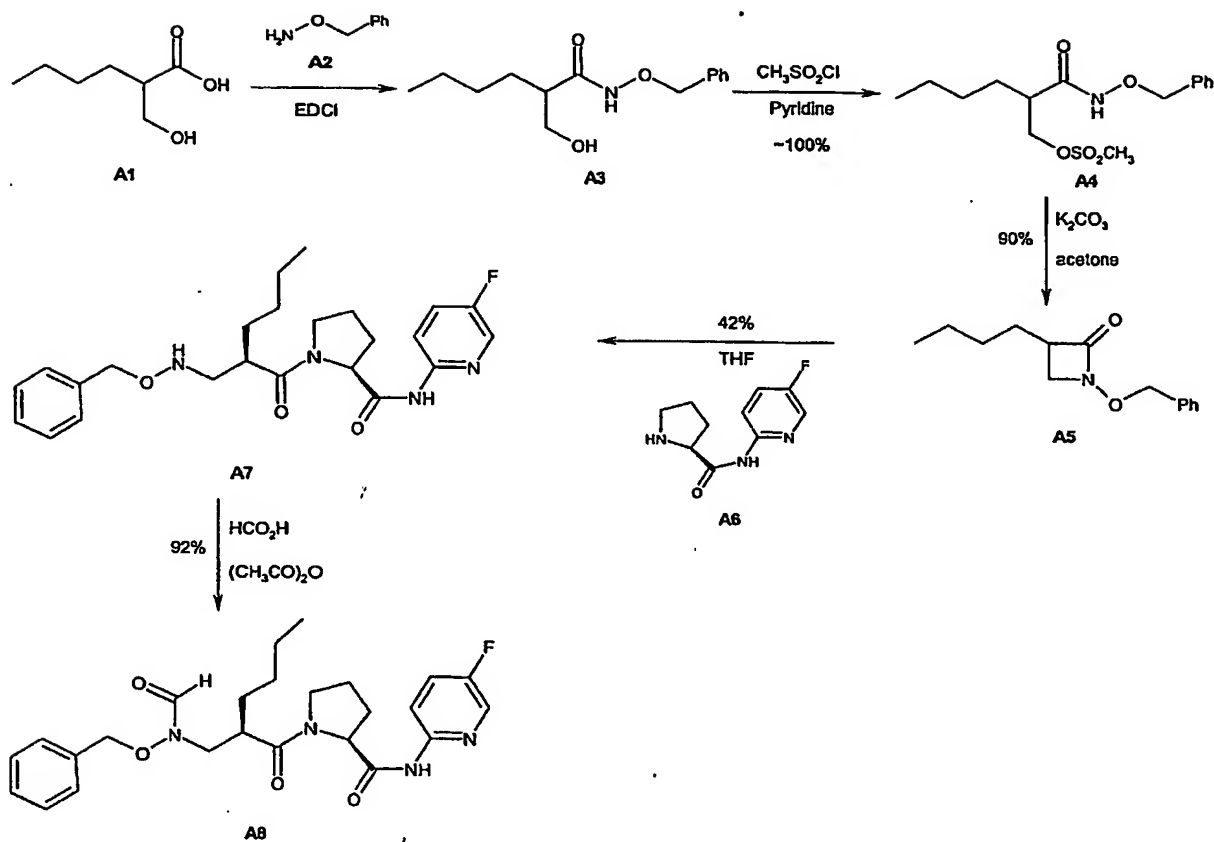
TMSCl = trimethylsilyl chloride

rt = room temperature

THF = tetrahydrofuran

The following illustrates a preferred process of the invention.

Reaction Scheme



The following examples illustrate the invention but should not be interpreted as a limitation thereon. Product numbers refer to the preferred reaction scheme depicted immediately above.

Product A3

A flask was charged with 2.80 g (19.2 mmol) of **A1**, 80 mL of THF, 20 mL of water, and 4.73 g (38.4 mmol) of **A2**. The resulting solution was stirred at rt and the pH of the solution was adjusted to 4.2-4.5 with 2N HCl acid solution.

5.52 g (28.8 mmol) of EDCI was added in three portions (2.12 g, 2.26 g, 1.14 g) within 15 minutes. The resulting solution was stirred at rt for 2 hours, and the pH of the solution was adjusted to 4.2-4.5 during the reaction. The progress of the reaction was monitored by HPLC. After the reaction was completed, THF was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the residue was extracted with 3 x 70 mL of ethyl acetate and the combined

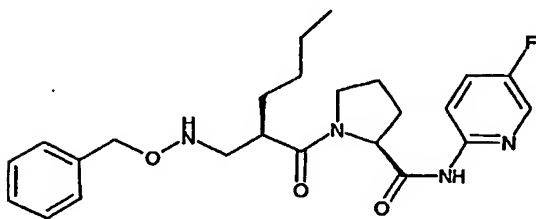
organic phase was washed sequentially with 2 x 50 mL of 10% citric acid solution, 50 mL of water, 2 x 50 mL of 5% sodium bicarbonate solution and 50 mL brine dried over MgSO_4 . The evaporation of organic solvent afforded 2.4 g of **A3** (94% yield).

Product A4

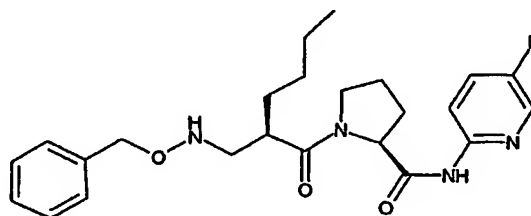
A flask was charged with 7.53 g (30 mmol) of **A3** and 30 mL of pyridine. The resulting solution was cooled to $0 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ with ice-salt bath. Then, 2.78 mL (36 mmol) of methanesulfonyl chloride was slowly added and maintained the temperature at $0 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ for 1.5 hours. After the reaction monitored by HPLC was completed, the mixture was poured into cold 120 mL of 1N HCl acid, and extracted with 2 x 100 mL of ethyl acetate. The organic phase was washed sequentially with 2 x 70 mL of 1N HCl acid until the aqueous solution was acidic, 100 mL of saturated sodium bicarbonate solution, 100 mL of brine and dried over MgSO_4 . The evaporation of organic solvent gave 9.87 g of **A4** (~100% yield).

Product A5

A flask was charged with 16.07 g (116 mmol) of potassium carbonate (powdered), 631 mL of acetone. The suspension was heated to reflux. Then, 12.49 g (38 mmol) of **A4** in 91 mL of acetone was slowly added (30 minutes). The resulting mixture was stirred at reflux for 1 hour. After the reaction monitored by HPLC was completed, the suspension was filtered through celite, and washed with 200 mL of ethyl acetate. The organic solvent was concentrated and diluted with 400 mL of ethyl acetate and washed with 100 mL of 1N HCl acid, 100 mL of saturated sodium bicarbonate solution, 100 mL of brine and dried over MgSO_4 . The concentration of organic solvent under reduced pressure afforded 7.96 g of **A5** (liquid, 90% yield).



A7



A7'

When the **A5** is racemic, attacking with chiral **A6** results in two diastereomers **A7** and **A7'**. They can be separated by silica gel column using EtOAc and hexanes (1:1) as eluent system. **A7** was the second fraction from column and it was identified by comparing with the authentic sample from the other approach.

There are several methods to open the β -lactam ring in **A5**. The results for opening the lactam ring are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Reaction Conditions and Results for Coupling A5 and A6

A5	A6	Solventy	Additives	Temp. (°C)	Time (h)	Remarks
5 mmol	6 mmol	MeOH (25 mL)		22	1	None
				65	1	None
			0.1 mL - 2 EHA	66	1	Non
			1 mL - H ₂ O	22	15	None
			1 mL - H ₂ O	70	2	None
			2 mL - H ₂ O	82	17	100% conversion
5 mmol	7.5 mmol	Toluene		115	3	None
			0.5 mL - TMSCl	116	4	3% conversion
			1 mL - 2EHA	115	3	100% conversion one bypd.
5 mmol	6 mmol	THF	0.2 mL - 2EHA	70	7	98% conversion

Product A7 and A7'

A flask was charged with 1.165 g (5 mmol) of **A5**, 10 mL of THF, 1.24 g (6 mmol) of **A6** and 0.2 mL (1.25 mmol) of 2-ethyl hexanoic acid. The resulting solution was heated to reflux (70°C) for 7 hours, and the reaction was monitored by HPLC. THF was evaporated and the residue was dissolved in 100 mL of ethyl acetate. The organic layer was washed sequentially with 25 mL of water, 25 mL of saturated sodium bicarbonate, 25 mL of brine and dried over MgSO₄. The concentration of organic solvent gave oil which was further purified by column separation on silica gel to give 0.95 g of **A7** and 0.85 g of **A7'** (84% total yield).

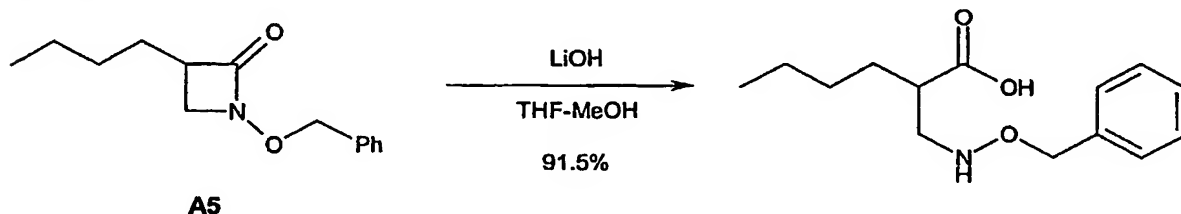
Product A8

A small flask was charged with 0.35 g (3.43 mmol) of acetic anhydride, and cooled to <10°C. Then, 0.50 g (10.8 mmol) of formic acid (96%) was slowly added to the (25 minutes). After the addition, the solution was warmed to room temperature and stirred at this temperature for 30 minutes.

A flask was charged with 0.62 g (1.40 mmol) of **A7** and 5 mL of ethyl acetate. The solution was cooled to -3 to 0°C with ice-salt bath. Then, the solution prepared from above procedure was slowly added (30 minutes). After addition, the reaction was completed (monitored by HPLC). The solution was diluted with 100 mL of ethyl acetate, and washed

sequentially with 25 mL of water, 2 x 25 mL of saturated sodium bicarbonate, 25 mL of brine and dried over MgSO_4 . The organic solvent was evaporated to give 0.61 g of **A8**.

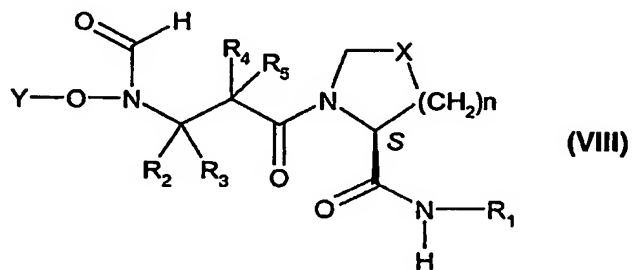
The lactam ring can also be opened by a base, such as lithium hydroxide. As depicted below, the opening ring product was obtained in 91.5% yield with high purity after work-up.



A flask was charged with 1.165 g (5mmol) of **A5**, 15 mL of THF, 5 mL of methanol. The resulting solution was cooled to 0°C. Then, 0.25 g of lithium hydroxide monohydrate in 5 mL of water was added. The solution was stirred and allowed to warm to 22°C for 18 hours. After the reaction monitored by HPLC was completed, the pH of the mixture was adjusted to 2 with 2N HCl acid. The organic solvents were removed, and the residue was extracted with 2 x 50 mL of ethyl acetate, and washed with 2 x 30 mL of brine and dried over MgSO_4 . The evaporation the organic solvent gave 1.15 g of desired product in 91.5% yield with high purity.

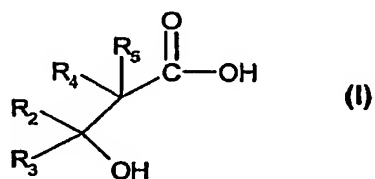
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for preparing a compound of the formula (VIII)

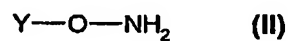


comprising step A:

contacting a compound of the formula (I)

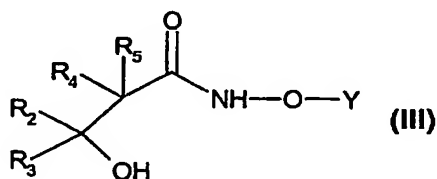


with a compound of the formula (II)



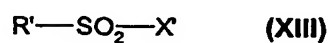
in the presence of a carboxy activating agent, in a suitable solvent

under conditions suitable to form a compound of the formula (III)

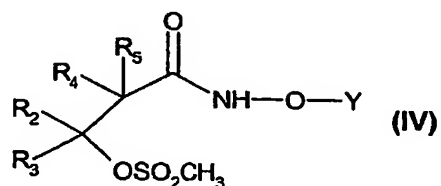


followed by step B:

contacting compound (III) with a compound of the formula (XIII)

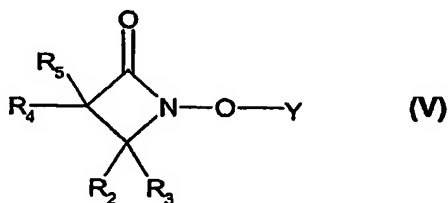


in the presence of a base in a suitable solvent, under conditions suitable to form a compound of the formula (IV)



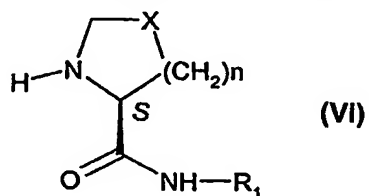
followed by Step C:

contacting compound (IV) with a base in a suitable solvent under conditions suitable to form a compound of the formula (V)

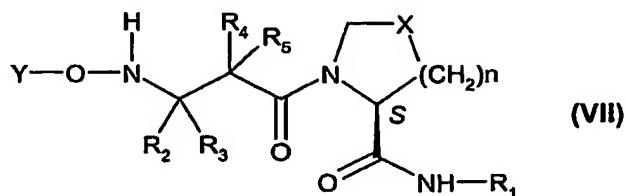


followed by Step D:

contacting compound (V) with a compound of the formula (VI)



in a suitable solvent optionally in the presence of an activator under conditions suitable to form a compound of the formula (VII)



followed by Step E:

contacting compound (VII) with a formylating agent in a suitable solvent under conditions suitable to form compound (VIII);

wherein

Y is a hydroxy protecting group;

Each of R₂, R₃, R₄ and R₅, independently, is hydrogen or alkyl, or (R₂ and R₃) and/or (R₄ and R₅) collectively form a C₄₋₇cycloalkyl;

X is $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{OH})-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{OR})-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{SH})-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{SR})-$, $-\text{CF}_2-$, $-\text{C}=\text{N}(\text{OR})-$ or $-\text{CH}(\text{F})-$;

wherein

R is alkyl;

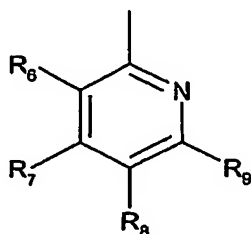
R₁ is aryl or heteroaryl;

X' is halo;

R' is alkyl or aryl; and

n is 0 to 3, provided that when n is 0, X is -CH₂-.

2. The process of claim 1 wherein each of R₂, R₃ and R₅ is hydrogen; R₄ is butyl; X is -CH₂-; n is 1; Y is benzyl or *t*-butyldimethylsilyl; and R₁ is of the formula



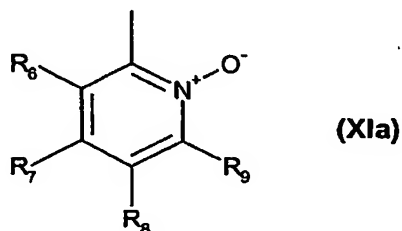
wherein

R_6 and R_9 are hydrogen;

R_7 is hydrogen or C_{1-7} alkyl; and

R_8 is hydrogen, halogen or C_{1-7} alkyl.

3. The process of claim 2 wherein R_7 is hydrogen; and R_8 is fluoro.
4. The process of claim 2 wherein R_7 is C_{1-7} alkyl; and R_8 is hydrogen.
5. The process of claim 1 wherein R_1 is of the formula (Xla)

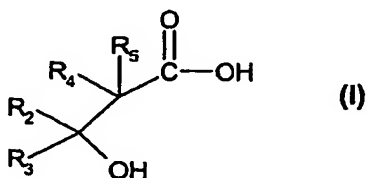


wherein

R_6 , R_7 and R_9 are hydrogen; and

R_8 is halogen or C_{1-7} alkyl.

6. The process of claim 4 wherein R_8 is halo or ethyl.
7. The process of claim 6 wherein R_8 is fluoro.
8. The process of claim 1 carried out at a temperature of about 0°C to about 80°C , a pH of about 2 to about 12, and in one or more solvents selected from the group consisting of dioxane; methylene chloride; dichloromethane; toluene, acetone; methyl ethyl ketone; THF; isopropyl acetate; DMF; and an alcohol.
9. A process comprising contacting a compound of the formula (I)

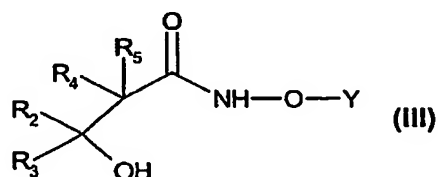


with a compound of the formula (II)



in the presence of a carboxy activating agent, in a suitable solvent

under conditions suitable to form a compound of the formula (III)



wherein

each of R_2 , R_3 , R_4 and R_5 , independently, is hydrogen or alkyl, or (R_2 and R_3) and/or (R_4 and R_5) collectively form a C_{4-7} cycloalkyl; and

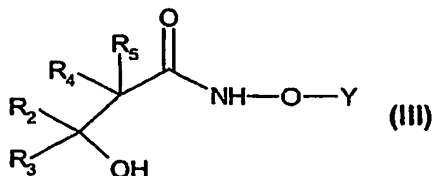
Y is a hydroxy protecting group.

10. The process of claim 9 wherein of R_2 , R_3 and R_5 are hydrogen; R_4 is C_{1-7} alkyl; and Y is benzyl or *t*-butyldimethylsilyl.

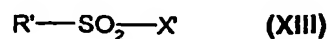
11. The process of claim 10 wherein R_4 is *n*-butyl.

12. The process of claim 10 carried out at a temperature of about 5°C to about 35°C for about 2 hours to about 5 hours, at a pH of about 3 to about 5, wherein the carboxy activating agent is DCC, CDMT or EDCI and the solvent is THF/water.

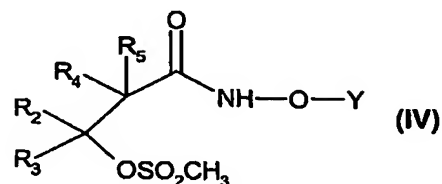
13. A process comprising contacting a compound of the formula (III)



with a compound of the formula (XIII)



in the presence of a base in a suitable solvent, under conditions suitable to form a compound of the formula (IV)



wherein

each of R_2 , R_3 , R_4 and R_5 , independently, is hydrogen or alkyl, or (R_2 and R_3) and/or (R_4 and R_5) collectively form a C_{4-7} cycloalkyl;

Y is a hydroxy protecting group;

X' is halo; and

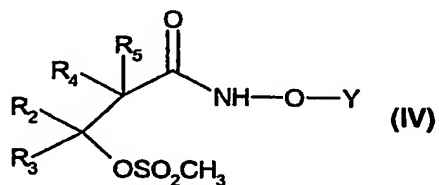
R' is alkyl or aryl.

14. The process of claim 13 wherein each of R_2 , R_3 and R_5 are hydrogen; R_4 is C_{1-7} alkyl; X' is chloro; R' is methyl or phenyl or tolyl; and Y is benzyl or *t*-butyldimethylsilyl.

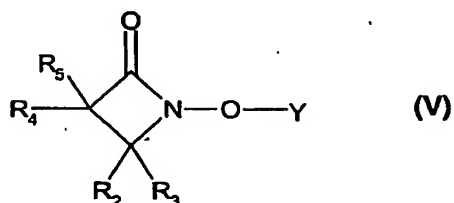
15. The process of claim 10 wherein R_4 is *n*-butyl; and R' is methyl.

16. The process of claim 10 carried out at a temperature of about -5°C to about 5°C for about 2 hours to about 5 hours at a pH of about 9 to about 10, wherein the base is pyridine, DMAP, a trialkylamine, a resin-bound bases, or a Hunig bases, and the solvent is pyridine, THF or EtOAc.

17. A process comprising contacting a compound of the formula (IV)



with a base in a suitable solvent under conditions suitable to form a compound of the formula (V)



wherein

each of R_2 , R_3 , R_4 and R_5 , independently, is hydrogen or alkyl, or (R_2 and R_3) and/or (R_4 and R_5) collectively form a C_{4-7} cycloalkyl; and

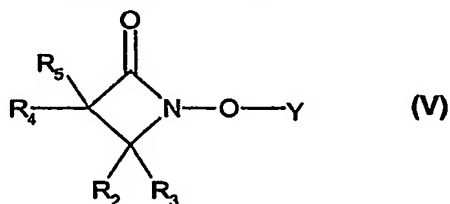
Y is a hydroxy protecting group.

18. The process of claim 17 wherein each of R_2 , R_3 and R_5 are hydrogen; R_4 is C_{1-7} alkyl; X' is chloro; R' is methyl or phenyl; and Y is benzyl or *t*-butyldimethylsilyl.

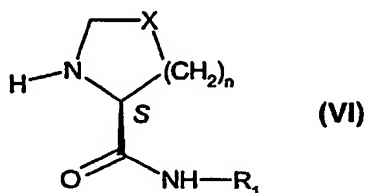
19. The process of claim 17 wherein R_4 is *n*-butyl; and R' is methyl.

20. The process of claim 17 carried out at a temperature of about 40°C to about 80°C for about 2 hours to about 4 hours at a pH of about 8 to about 12, wherein the base is potassium carbonate, lithium carbonate, sodium carbonate, lithium bicarbonate, sodium bicarbonate or an alkyl lithium and the solvent is acetone or methylethylketone.

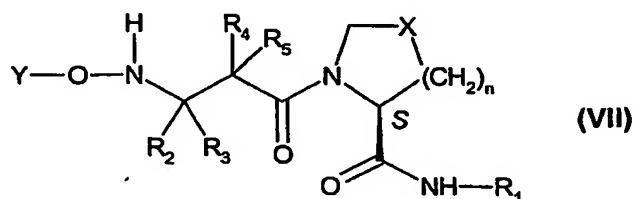
21. A process comprising contacting a compound of the formula (V)



with a compound of the formula (VI)



in a suitable solvent optionally in the presence of an activator under conditions suitable to form a compound of the formula (VII)



wherein

each of R₂, R₃, R₄ and R₅, independently, is hydrogen or alkyl, or (R₂ and R₃) and/or (R₄ and R₅) collectively form a C₄₋₇cycloalkyl;

Y is a hydroxy protecting group;

X is $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{OH})-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{OR})-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{SH})-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{SR})-$, $-\text{CF}_2-$, $-\text{C}=\text{N}(\text{OR})-$ or $-\text{CH}(\text{F})-$;

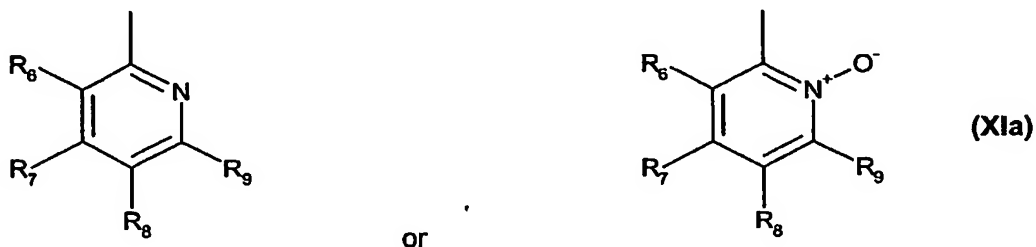
wherein

R is alkyl;

R₁ is aryl or heteroaryl; and

n is 0 to 3, provided that when n is 0, X is -CH₂-.

22. The process of claim 21 wherein each of R₂, R₃ and R₅ are hydrogen; R₄ is C₁₋₇alkyl; X is -CH₂-; Y is benzyl or *t*-butyldimethylsilyl; and R₁ is a moiety of the formula



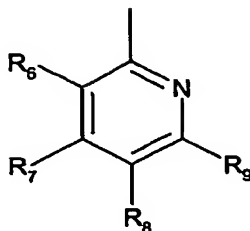
wherein

R₆ and R₉ are hydrogen;

R₇ is hydrogen or C₁₋₇alkyl; and

R₈ is hydrogen, halogen or C₁₋₇alkyl.

23. The process of claim 22 wherein R_4 is *n*-butyl; and R_1 is a moiety of the formula



wherein

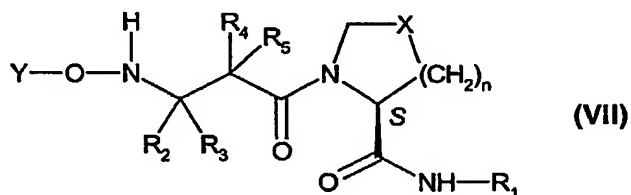
R_7 is hydrogen; and

R_8 is fluoro.

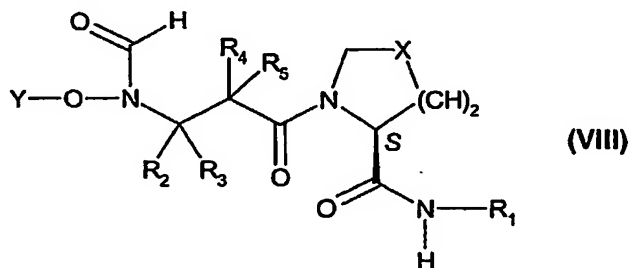
24. The process of claim 21 carried out at a temperature is of about 60°C to about 80°C for about 5 hours to about 10 hours at a pH of about 5 to about 11, wherein the activator is 2-ethylhexanoic acid, acetic acid or isobutyric acid and the solvent is THF, dioxane or dimethoxyethane.

25. The process of claim 24 carried out in the absence of an activator and wherein the solvent is MeOH•H₂O or EtOH•H₂O.

26. A process comprising contacting a compound of the formula (VII)



with a formylating agent in a suitable solvent under conditions suitable to form a compound of the formula (VIII)



wherein

each of R_2 , R_3 , R_4 and R_5 , independently, is hydrogen or alkyl, or (R_2 and R_3) and/or (R_4 and R_5) collectively form a C_{4-7} cycloalkyl;

Y is a hydroxy protecting group;

X is $-CH_2-$, $-S-$, $-CH(OH)-$, $-CH(OR)-$, $-CH(SH)-$, $-CH(SR)-$, $-CF_2-$, $-C=N(OR)-$ or $-CH(F)-$;

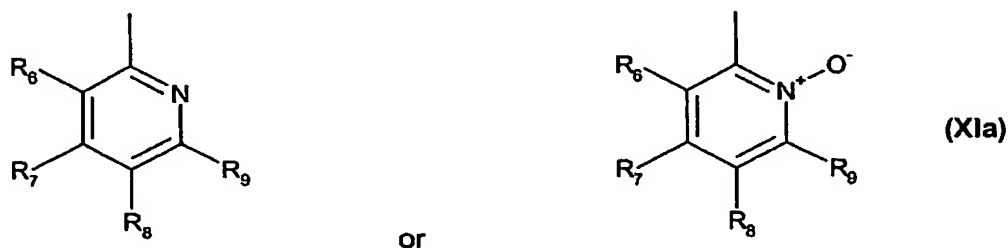
wherein

R is alkyl;

R_1 is aryl or heteroaryl; and

n is 0 to 3, provided that when n is 0, X is $-CH_2-$.

27. The process of claim 26 wherein each of R_2 , R_3 and R_5 are hydrogen; R_4 is C_{1-7} alkyl; X is $-CH_2-$; Y is benzyl or *t*-butyldimethylsilyl; and R_1 is a moiety of the formula



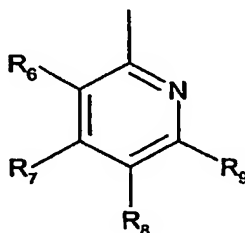
wherein

R_6 and R_9 are hydrogen;

R_7 is hydrogen or C_{1-7} alkyl; and

R_8 is hydrogen, halogen or C_{1-7} alkyl.

28. The process of claim 26 wherein R_4 is *n*-butyl; and R_1 is a moiety of the formula



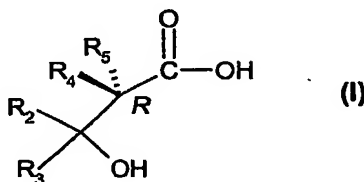
wherein

R_7 is hydrogen; and

R_8 is fluoro.

29. The process of claim 26 carried out at a temperature of about 0°C to about 25°C for about 20 minutes to about 1 hour, wherein the formylating agent is $\text{HCO}_2\text{H}/\text{Ac}_2\text{O}$ or trifluoroethylformate, and the solvent is EtOAc, isopropylacetate, *t*-butylacetate or THF.

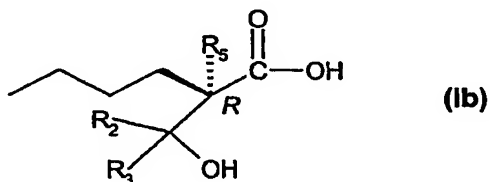
30. A compound of the formula (I)



wherein each of R_2 , R_3 , R_4 and R_5 , independently, is hydrogen or alkyl, or (R_2 and R_3) collectively form a C_{4-7} cycloalkyl, provided that when either R_4 or R_5 is hydrogen, the other substituent (i.e., R_4 or R_5) is not hydrogen or methyl.

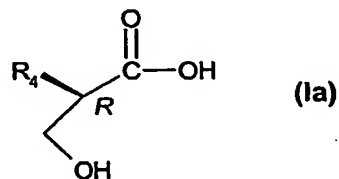
31. The compound of claim 30 wherein R_5 is hydrogen; and R_4 is C_{2-7} alkyl.

32. The compound of claim 30 having the formula (Ib)

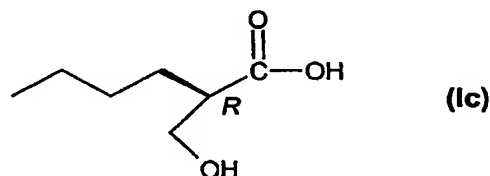


wherein each of R_2 , R_3 and R_5 , independently, is hydrogen or alkyl, or (R_2 and R_3) collectively form a C_{4-7} cycloalkyl, provided that R_5 is not *n*-butyl.

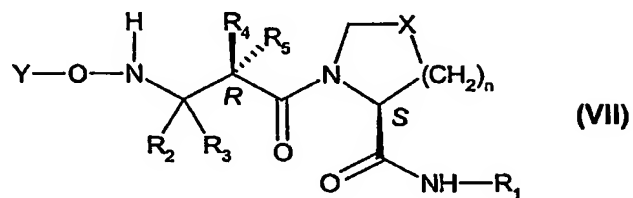
33. The compound of claim 30 having the formula (Ia)



34. The compound of claim 30 having the formula (Ic)



35. A compound having the formula (VII)



wherein

each of R_2 , R_3 , R_4 and R_5 , independently, is hydrogen or alkyl, or (R_2 and R_3) can collectively form a C_{4-7} cycloalkyl;

Y is a hydroxy protecting group;

X is $-CH_2-$, $-S-$, $-CH(OH)-$, $-CH(OR)-$, $-CH(SH)-$, $-CH(SR)-$, $-CF_2-$, $-C=N(OR)-$ or $-CH(F)-$;

wherein

R is alkyl;

R_1 is aryl or heteroaryl; and

n is 0 to 3, provided that when n is 0, X is $-CH_2-$, and that R_4 and R_5 are different.

Abstract of the Disclosure

The present invention is directed to a process for preparing intermediates that are useful to prepare certain antibacterial *N*-formyl hydroxylamine compounds which are peptide deformylase inhibitors. The process makes use α β -lactam intermediate. Certain optically pure intermediates are also claimed.

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